

SHERMAN.

Operations of Sherman and Gillmore.

Grand Climax of the Campaign in South Carolina.

Charleston Evacuated by the Rebels.

Positive Announcement of the Good News by the Richmond Papers.

The Birthplace of Treason in Our Hands.

A Battle Said to Have Been Fought for Its Possession.

Despatches from Admiral Dahlgren, General Grant, General Weitzel and Secretary Stanton.

THE ADMIRAL ON HIS WAY TO THE CITY.

Sketch of Charleston and Its Defences.

Details of the Evacuation of Columbia.

Sherman Marching on Charlotte, North Carolina.

FURIOUS ATTACK ON FORT ANDERSON

The Evacuation of Richmond in Progress.

LYNCHBURG THE VERY LAST DITCH,

THE OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

General Weitzel to General Grant.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1865.

The evacuation of Charleston by the rebels is announced in the following telegram, just received from General Grant:

CITY POINT, Va., Feb. 20, 1865.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General:

The Richmond Examiner of to-day, just received, says that Charleston was evacuated on Tuesday last.

G. WEITZEL, Major General.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Admiral Dahlgren to Secretary Welles.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1865.

The following despatch has been received at the Navy Department:

FLORIAN HANSEN, Rear Admiral, Charleston Harbor, Feb. 19, 1865.

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government was there, one-half of which was saved; and the rest, for want of time and transportation, was destroyed. The presses and fixtures for printing treasury notes in the establishments of Evans & Cogswell, and Keating & Ball, were necessarily abandoned, together with the other extensive machinery of these well known firms. The first named establishment had one hundred and two printing presses, and was unquestionably the largest and best equipped publishing house in the South.

The enemy's forces operating west of Columbia reached the banks of the Congaree, opposite the city, on Thursday evening, and threw in a number of shells, to which our batteries responded. A portion of this column moved up the river during the night, and crossed the Saluda and Broad rivers—the main tributaries of the Congaree, which meet near Columbia, a few miles above the city.

During the movement General Beauregard evacuated the city, and on Friday morning the enemy entered and took possession without opposition. Our troops were withdrawn to a position some twenty miles from Columbia, where they remained on yesterday.

The enemy's force entering Columbia consisted of Sherman's main army, a large portion of which immediately moved up the Charlotte road, while another portion moved down in the direction of Charleston. The latter city has doubtless been evacuated.

DESPATCHES FROM CHARLESTON REPORT THE EVACUATION.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 14, 1865.

The enemy's gunboats and one Monitor have been shelling our picket lines on James Island all day. All quiet in our immediate front. Nothing definite from above. The enemy keep up a steady shelling of the city.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 15, 1865.

All quiet along our lines. The enemy this morning are reported to be moving in force near Columbia, on the Lexington road. It is reported that they crossed the Congaree to day.

LAND AND NAVAL ATTACK ON FORT ANDERSON, BELOW WILMINGTON, N. C.

WILMINGTON, Feb. 19, 1865.

The enemy shelled Fort Anderson furiously yesterday afternoon, nearly all night and this morning. It is reported that a land force also attacked our forces at Anderson, but were repulsed. Cannonading is still going on at one P. M. We have no particulars.

UNION EXPEDITION FROM WASHINGTON ON NEWBERN, N. C.

The telegraph operator at Weldon reported on yesterday that a raid from Washington or Newbern, N. C., was in progress, the supposed destination of the raiders being Rocky Mount station, on the Wilmington road, in Edgecombe county. The wires continued to work during yesterday evening, but to Wilmington, however, from which it would appear that they had not struck the road.

REPORTED UNION MOVEMENT ON KINGSTON, N. C.

A movement of the enemy was reported yesterday in heavy force upon Kingston, N. C., and it was supposed that official quarters that Foster's force had been moved up to Newbern.

A cavalry raid was also reported in the direction of Tarboro. The force moving from Newbern has fifty or sixty pieces of artillery. We shall hear more of these movements in a few days. We are quite certain that they are in progress as we write.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS AT WILMINGTON.

Colonel Hatch, one of our Commissioners of Exchange, has gone to Wilmington, at which place he will, during the week, exchange ten thousand prisoners. We may remark here that the exchange of prisoners on James river will be at the same time on an uninterrupted.

UNION ADVANCING FROM KNOXVILLE.

A despatch has been received here stating that a force of the enemy four thousand strong, two thousand of which were cavalry, are advancing from Knoxville, and had reached Greenville, which is fifty-four miles from Bristol. This expedition is supposed to be another raid on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.

DESPERATE FIGHT BETWEEN REBEL DESERTERS AND REBEL TROOPS.

A desperate affair occurred last Tuesday in Lunenburg county, between some deserters from the Confederate army and some of the Ninth Virginia cavalry, aided by citizens. Several on both sides were wounded. The deserters were finally captured.

BRIGADIER IN AMP AROUND RICHMOND.

General Ewell, commanding the Department of Florida, reports a wholesale robbery of nearly one hundred paroled prisoners on Saturday night, between Camp Lee and the city. Other robberies of returned prisoners are reported as occurring in the streets of Richmond.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1865.

The report of the evacuation of Charleston, received here about one P. M. to-day, caused general excitement throughout the city, although such a result had been anticipated shortly. It was, however, subsequently discredited, and many persons doubted its truth, regarding it as premature; but the official confirmation received by the Navy Department this evening removed all doubt upon the subject, and the rejoicing is general and enthusiastic over this long delayed but glorious result.

It is understood that a salute of three hundred guns will be fired here to-morrow in honor of the event.

The evacuation of Charleston is likely to be followed soon by the evacuation of Richmond. The evidence that this has already commenced daily multiplies. Advances received here within a few hours, by the underground mail, from parties in the rebel service, state positively that this has been determined upon, and that nearly all the machinery in the rebel workshops have already been removed, as well as a portion of the medical stores. This work is mostly done in the night, so that the inhabitants are not able to ascertain where they are sent or the extent to which it has been carried on. One letter states positively that the evacuation will take place within ten or fifteen days. It is understood that Lee will fall back to Lynchburg, and that the rebel forces generally are to be concentrated there, prepared to make a desperate effort to break through the toils in which they are ensnared, and which are hourly more closely enveloping them.

A few days now will probably develop more clearly the character of the movement decided.

The Fortness Monroe Despatch.

FORTNESS MONROE, Feb. 20, 1865.

The steamer Blackstone, which arrived here yesterday from Savannah and Hilton Head, with despatches from General Sherman, was loaded with cotton from Savannah. She sailed this morning for New York.

In addition to yesterday's despatch, the captain of the Blackstone says a battle had been fought just previous to his sailing from Hilton Head by General Sherman's (probably Gillmore's) forces, but the result was not known to him.

General Grant's Compilation of News from Yesterday's Richmond Papers.

CITY POINT, Feb. 20, 1865.

The following paragraphs are extracted from the Richmond papers of to-day:

THE EVACUATION OF CHARLESTON AND COLUMBIA—REBELS' LAST MOVEMENT.

We now learn that Charleston was evacuated on Tuesday last, and that on Friday the enemy took possession of Columbia. It is reported that our forces under General Beauregard are moving in the direction of Charleston.

Official intelligence was received at the War Office last night that Sherman was on yesterday morning advancing towards and near Winnsboro, a point on the railroad leading to Charlotte, and thirty miles north of Columbia. Charleston is thronged with refugees from Columbia, who report that some of Wheeler's cavalry plundered the city before the evacuation. Up to Tuesday last it was uncertain whether Columbia would come within the immediate range of Sherman's purposes, and consequently the public mind was not prepared for such an early solution of the question. The government had, however, just two weeks ago, taken the precaution to remove its stores, deposited there, amounting to several millions of dollars; and within the past few days all of the despatches and telegrams to the Treasury Department, together with the supplies of Treasury notes on hand, were safely conveyed away. The enemy being in possession of Branchville, Orangeburg and Kingstons, and having moved on the roads leading to Charleston; and an unfortunate accident upon the Charlotte road, from Columbia, prevented the authorities from making any of that avenue to save other valuable materials in the city. A large quantity of medical stores belonging to the

crucified some years afterwards by Huguenot refugees, who emigrated from France and settled in pretty considerable numbers in South Carolina. It was not until 1783 that it was incorporated as a city. Fifty-two years previously, in 1731, it contained six hundred houses and five churches, and a thriving business was done in its port. During the Revolutionary war the possession of the harbor of Charleston was the object of more than one British expedition. A garrison of four hundred on Sullivan's Island, under command of Colonel Moultrie, achieved great distinction by the repulse on June 28, 1776, of a British squadron of nine ships-of-war. On the 12th of May, 1780, the city was surrendered to Sir Henry Clinton by General Lincoln, the corporation and principal citizens refusing to co-operate in such a step, and offering to acknowledge the sovereignty of Great Britain. The British held it till May, 1792.

It is also the largest city in the State. It is built on a peninsula, or tongue of land, between the Ashley and Cooper rivers, which unite below the town, and form a spacious harbor, communicating with the ocean at Sullivan's Island, seven miles distant. Both harbor and city somewhat resemble New York and lie in miniature. There is, however, this striking difference: that the portion of Charleston called the battery, and corresponding to our Battery and to State street, is the most fashionable part of the city. The city is regularly built, and extends nearly two miles in length and a mile and a half in breadth. Some of the streets are from thirty to seventy feet broad, and some are narrow—for instance, King street, the Broadway of Charleston. The streets run mostly parallel to each other, running across from river to river, and intersected longitudinally nearly at right angles. They are shaded with beautiful trees. Several of the houses are embowered in a profusion of foliage and flowers. Many of the dwellings have piazzas and are ornamented with vines and creepers, while the gardens attached to them bloom with the orange, the peach and other trees and shrubs in great variety.

The city has, of course, suffered much in appearance from the ravages of war. The shells which have been almost daily thrown into the city from our forts on Morris Island have much injured the lower part of the city. A correspondent of the city—(Passing through the suburbs the demolition of the city—) "Passing through the lower wards of the city you would be particularly struck with the and desolation. The elegant mansions and familiar thoroughfares once rejoicing in wealth and refinement and the theatre of busy life—the well known and fondly cherished churches—some of them ancient landmarks—where large assemblages were wont to bow at holy altars, and spacious halls that once blazed with light and rung with festive songs, are all deserted, sombre and cheerless; and this is enhanced by the forbidding aspect of that vast district of the city which was laid in ashes three years ago, and which remains in unaltered ruins as the monument of Charleston's long and dreary past in the grand march of improvement. Here you perceive her humiliation."

It appears that the simulation was in reserve for the day when her valiant fire-eating sons should abandon her without a fight.

THE DEFENCES OF CHARLESTON HARBOR.

Though we have frequently described most minutely the several forts which command the navigation up to the city, as well as the various points of land favorable for the erection of batteries for the more perfect defence of the harbor and the channel below, and given accurate maps of the harbor and diagrams of the defences, we again lay before our readers a full description thereof.

PORT FORTRESS.

Fort Sumter, situated three and three-eighths miles distant from the city, standing out on the open bay one mile from the land on either side. It is a modern triangle of pentagonal fort, built upon an artificial island, the forming of which cost half a million of dollars, and was ten years in construction. The fortification cost another half a million of dollars. The work was originally designed for an armament of one hundred and forty pieces of ordnance of all calibres. The bombardment of it by General Gillmore spoiled its symmetrical shape, but does not appear to have injured it as a defensive work. Its armament of one hundred and forty guns has probably again fallen into our hands.

PORT MOUTHER.

A huge water battery, without any guns under cover, had an armament of eleven guns of heavy calibre and several mortars. The outer and inner walls are of brick, paved with stone, and filled with sand, making a solid wall fifteen or sixteen feet thick.

CASTLE PINCKNEY.

Castle Pinckney, a small work situated on the southern extremity of Shute's Folly Island, between the Hog and Foley channels, is the immediate outwork of the city. The armament consists of about twenty-five pieces, twenty-four and thirty-two pounders, a few sea-coast mortars and six columbads.

THE REBEL GARRISON.

On the evacuation of Savannah Hardee retired to Pocomo and thence to Charleston, and during the march of Sherman against Columbia formed the garrison of the "cradle of the rebellion." Colonel E. C. Anderson, formerly post commander of Savannah, was constituted post commander of Charleston. The troops of General Sam. Jones and McLaws covered the approaches to the place, while Anderson's troops held the city proper. The organization of the defenders of the rebel fort is not known. On the occupation of Columbia it appears that Hardee hastily evacuated the city and marched off to join Beauregard, who is too weak to resist Sherman's advance.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

Operations near Charleston.

[From the Richmond Whig, Feb. 18.]

A telegraphic summary of the following account of late operations near Charleston, from the Courier of the 11th, has already been published in our columns.

The Courier says:—About eight o'clock on Friday morning a force, supposed to be three or four thousand strong, under cover of their gunboats, effected a landing at Grimball's, James Island. Our pickets, after a brisk fight, fell back to the first line of works. Major Manguel, of the Palmetto battalion, in command of our picket force, was reported seriously wounded. The enemy, after rousing the canyway, drew up in line of battle, and were moving forward slowly at last accounts. No general fight, however, had taken place. No apprehensions are entertained from this movement, which is believed to be nothing but a feint. Very heavy firing was heard in that direction at the closing of our report, and other forces made an attack on our lines at Saltwater on Friday morning, but were easily repulsed. At the same time a body of the enemy advanced upon the Charleston road, near Blue House, and opened with their artillery, but made no impression on our lines. The enemy appear to have withdrawn most of their troops from Combahee ferry. A steamer filled with forces came up to Tar River and landed a number, with the intention of capturing our pickets. The enemy repulsed fire on the city yesterday, throwing shells at

The Fall of Columbia.

THE REBELS LOOK ON IT AS A STEP TOWARDS THE COMPLETE INVESTMENT OF RICHMOND.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Feb. 18.]

The State capital of South Carolina has fallen. Columbia is in the hands of Sherman. If the mere overturning of a country were conquering it, the Yankee enemy might be bawled of the subjugation of South Carolina. For on they have advanced, and permitted the very heart of the State without serious opposition. But the very value of that advance, for the general purpose of the campaign, consists in its being a step towards co-operating with Grant in the investment of Richmond. Thus Sherman's enterprise is only beginning.

The future plans or present dispositions of Beauregard are unknown here. The little Confederate army, however, is safe, and may yet lead Sherman such a dance as Greene led Cornwallis over those same rivers and swamps. If the federal army cannot reach the Danville Railroad, then it had better have stayed in Atlanta all this while. But it is a far cry to Lenoir.

It is true, the Rebels can gratify their sense of "poetical justice" (for, as we should say, their petty malice), by leaving in the unprotected home-steads of that noble State, and wracking upon the women and children of South Carolina their whole revenge for the hero's slanders they have encountered on every field at the hands of the men. Yet that is not completing the country. It is making it ungovernable, where the breed of men is of the right kind. This is reason to believe that General Beauregard is carrying on a desperate fight, and that the South is near the end of its trials.

We may regard this audacious march of the enemy

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

through the heart of South Carolina as one of the consequences of removing Jackson from command of our army of Tennessee.

Feasibility of Arrangements for the Celebration of the Anniversary of the Birthday of the Illustrious George Washington, February 22, 1865, for the Assembly of the Common Council of the City of New York.

The Special Committee of the Common Council of the City of New York, appointed to make the necessary arrangements for properly celebrating the one hundred and thirty-third anniversary of the birthday of George Washington, have concluded, purely from motives of economy, and in order to give greater effect to the occasion, to discontinue the annual custom of having the principal officers of the general and State governments and prominent and influential citizens, and to instead have arranged for a celebration of the day in a public hall, and more in keeping with the genius of our institutions, and to give greater effect to the evening of the ever memorable day of George Washington's birthday.

A grand display of fireworks will be given at the City Hall, Union square, Madison square, Jackson square, South Morris square, Tompkins square, East Broadway and Grand street and Liberty Park, under the direction of J. W. Hoffman, Esq., the distinguished pyrotechnist, to commence at seven o'clock P. M.

The exhibition at the City Hall will consist of the following pieces:

In four mutations: first, a septagonal wheel, in green and gold; second, a tree of Savon fuses; third, a pyramid of colored wheels; concludes with a cascade thirty feet high, and a shower of stars.

With additional decoration, enriched with colored fire, the points of the stars being adorned with circles of pearl fire, centered with pebbles stars, and supported by crimson wheels, concluding with a splendid figure in brilliant fire.

THE GRAND TORCHES commences with a vertical wheel, in blue, green and red, changes to the grand volute, composed of Savon fuses, and stars, and concludes with a radius of golden shower fire, reported.

THE DIAMOND STAR, or star composed of six diamonds, commencing with a circumflex wheel, in purple and yellow; changes to the diamond star, in green, crimson, blue and white, concluding with a fixed figure in brilliant fire, reported.

THE DIAMOND AND ROSE, commences with a vertical wheel, on a new construction, which changes to the following star, which again changes to a very tree, casting stars of blue, green, purple, white, yellow, orange and blue fire in every possible direction, filling the air with brilliant and pleasing light.

THE DIAMOND AND ROSE, in three mutations. First, a vertical wheel, in green and blue, and second, the diamond and rose, in blue, purple, crimson and yellow fire, concluding with a brilliant fixed figure, reported.

THE DIAMOND AND ROSE, commences with a vertical wheel, in blue, green, crimson and purple—opens with a hexagonal wheel and concludes with double star of brilliant fire.

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GRANT.

The Exchange of Prisoners on the James River.

Their Reports of What They Experienced.

Arrangements for a General Exchange in the Trans-Mississippi Department.

AND, AND, AND.

Mr. S. Cadwallader's Despatch.

CITY POINT, Feb. 19, 1865.

DETAILS OF THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

In one of my former despatches I mentioned that Lieutenant Colonel Mulford had despatched his flag of truce boat to Annapolis with a load of exchanged Union prisoners, and had remained behind in person to arrange the details of further exchange with the rebel Commissioner of Exchange, Judge Robert Ould. These gentlemen have had frequent conferences at Allen's Landing and elsewhere, and have definitively settled many minor considerations relating to future exchanges. Lieutenant Colonel Mulford was instructed by Lieutenant General Grant to say to Judge Ould that we would exchange men, and deliver them at our accessible point, for all the Union prisoners held by the rebels in the Trans-Mississippi Department, and that we would receive these at any point on